

M&O  
Serials  
QL 671  
.G84

THE  
MONTHLY



Volume 35

San Francisco, California, March, 1953

Number 3

### January — TOMALES POINT — Trip

On Jan. 11 there was a heavy overcast and rain was predicted; nevertheless a crowd of about 45 met at Point Reyes Station. A call to the John McClure ranch assured us that we could drive to the road-end, so we made a break for the point, hoping to beat the rain. A low fog reduced the visibility along the road up the peninsula, and persisted most of the time during the walk along the sea-cliffs. But it lifted after we reached the point, and we were able to see harlequins and oyster-catchers close by for the fifth consecutive year. Loons flew by frequently, also a single female Am. scoter (L.C.); two brant and at least 3 red-necked grebes were also observed. Most of the group walked back along the bayshore; a very low tide uncovered an unusually good display of tide-pool life, but also attracted clammers with resultant scarcity of birds. On the ride back to Inverness numerous hawks were perched on nearby rocks and poles. The day's list was much smaller than in previous years, due partly to the fog, and partly to the entire group going to the point with no stops for birding en route. A total of 67 species was observed.

Common, arctic and red-th. loons; red-necked, horned, eared and w. grebes; wh. and br. pelicans; Brandt and pelagic cormorants; grt. bl. heron, Am. egret, blk. brant, canvasback, Am. golden-eye, bufflehead, harlequin duck; wh.-w., surf and Am. scoters; ruddy duck, red-br. merganser, t. vulture; Cooper, red-t., and spar. hawks; Cal. quail, coot, blk. oyster-catcher, surf-bird, blk. turnstone; gl.-w., w., herring, ring-b., and Heermann gulls; murre, pig. guillemot, m. dove, hor. owl, r.-s. flicker, downy woodpecker; blk. and Say phoebes; scrub jay, Am. raven, ch.-b. chickadee, wren-tit, winter wren, robin, her. thrush, w. bluebird, water pipit, log. shrike, Aud. warbler, house sparrow, w. meadow-lark, Br. blackbird, house finch; sp. and br. towhees; Ore. junco; wh.-cr., gold.-cr., fox and song sparrows.

— A LAURENCE CURL, *Leader and Historian.*

### January — LAKE MERRITT — Trip

Some thirty members gathered this sunny Saturday morning, January 31st, for another birding session at Lake Merritt and Lakeside Park. Added to this nucleus was an enthusiastic junior high group led by Mr. Maurice Phelan and a number of scouts working on the bird section of their Nature Badge. Your host tried hard to satisfy this variety of quests and questions, and is grateful for the expert help available.

The extremely low water level recently maintained at the lake, permitting dogs and children free access to the beaches and the unfinished "Chain of Islands", together with lack of the winter boat barrier boom to refuge waters, have not encouraged a large or varied waterfowl population. The fall pintail influx, which reached a peak of only about 1500 in November, had long since dropped to 100 minus, leaving some 1000 coots the majority party. The recent presence of several wild geese of three species, feeding on the lawns with

baldpates, may be a promise of more future goose visitations. After a briefing on the rarer waterfowl in the temporary exhibit pen, some good gull close-ups were studied along shore; then the entire party took the "Duck Island Road" to get closer to the diving ducks and grebes. The morning concluded with a land-bird hunt across the park and a short session on identification problems (with specimens) in the Natural Science Center.

Altogether 40 species were seen (not counting cripples or introduced birds): eared and pied-b. grebes; cackling Can. and snow geese; mallard; Am. widg-eon; pintail; canvasback; lesser scaup; Am. golden-eye; ruddy duck; hooded merganser; coot; killdeer; glau.-w., w., herring, Cal., ring-b., short-b., and Bon. gulls; mour. dove; Anna hummingbird; red-sh. flicker; scrub jay; ch.-b. chickadee; bushtit; red-br. nuthatch; robin; Aud. warbler; house sparrow; Br. blackbird; grn.-b. goldfinch; sp. and br. towhees; Ore. junco; wh.-cr., gold.-cr., fox and song sparrows.

—PAUL F. COVEL, *Park Naturalist, Oakland Park Dept.*

## OBSERVATIONS

Loons, 300 to 400, mostly red-throated, Tomales Point, Jan. 28, Junea W. Kelly; White pelicans, 23 soaring over Albany, Feb. 20, Jack Guggolz and Larry Curl; Shovellers, 16, Chain of Lakes, Feb. 3, 4, 7; Canada geese, 85, heading north, Lafayette, Feb. 16, Harry C. Adamson; Wood ducks, pair, Chain of Lakes, Feb. 7 (J. W. K.); Harlequin ducks, 4 at Tomales Point, Jan. 28 (J. W. K.); Golden eagle, Lafayette, Feb. 3 (H. C. A.); Short-eared owl, near Berkeley Aquatic Park at dusk on Jan. 24 (L. C.); Allen hummingbird, Larkspur, Jan. 25, Mary L. Courtright; Strawberry Canyon, Jan. 25 (L. C.); On every trip since Jan. 25, on Feb. 4 in numbers at Chain of Lakes, (J. W. K.); Yellow-bellied sapsucker taking nectar from Eucalyptus flowers while hanging upside down, Diablo Country Club, (J. W. K.); Say phoebe, Albany, Feb. 5 (L. C.); Steller jay, seen near Jewel L. while in act of giving call similar to red-shouldered hawk, seldom if ever found here, Jan. 31 (L. C.); Ch.-b. chickadee, Alameda, Feb. 13 (J. W. K.); Bushtits probably incubating second brood in nest reported earlier in Alameda (J. W. K.); Roost of varied thrushes and robins, Huckleberry Ridge trail, Oakland, Feb. 11 at 5:15 p.m. (J. W. K.); male phainopepla wintering for second year along creek in Lafayette, late Oct. to Feb. 17 (H. C. A.); Hooded oriole, male, reported in Berkeley by Margaret R. Breck and in Oakland by Donald Brock, both on Jan. 21; Evening grosbeaks, 5 males, 2 females, Lafayette, Jan. 18—Feb. 4 (H. C. A.); Purple finches observed recently feeding on Cotoneaster berries in El Cerrito, while more common house finches never observed to do this (L. C.); Green-backed goldfinch, male of pair removing nesting material from nest of bushtit, El Cerrito, Feb. 14 (L. C.); Slate-colored junco, Berkeley, Jan. 14 to Feb. 10, every day, (M. R. B.).

\* \* \* \* \*

**AUDUBON CONVENTION:** The preliminary edition of the program for the Audubon Convention at Asilomar in Pacific Grove, March 28—31, has been published. Addresses and discussions of various phases of conservation in California are featured; the banquet will be held on Sunday evening. Field trips are scheduled for Saturday afternoon, Sunday morning and Tuesday, including an off-shore boat trip. Several fine exhibits have been arranged. Programs and further information may be obtained from the Audubon office in San Francisco (see back page).

\* \* \* \* \*

The January 1953 number of *SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN* has an article entitled "The Metabolism of Hummingbirds", by Dr. Oliver P. Pearson, who will be the speaker at the March meeting.

In the *SATURDAY EVENING POST* for December 6, 1952 is an article "Eavesdropper in the Woods", by William Gilman, which tells the story of Peter Kellogg and the Cornell University bird note recordings.



The January 1953 number of THE AUK (p. 31) has an article "Origin and Status of the House Finch in the Eastern United States", by John J. Elliott and Robert S. Arbib, Jr. There is an estimated population of 280 birds on Long Island and nearby Connecticut, apparently the descendents of caged birds which had been released in 1940 and which had been originally trapped in California. House finches are not known to occur elsewhere east of the great plains.

Audubon Screen Tours Lecture—Wednesday, March 11—Allan D. Cruickshank, "Santa Lucia Sea Cliffs"—Berkeley High School Little Theatre.

NEW MEMBERS: We welcome the following; from San Francisco, Robert Drewes, John Kertis; from Oakland, George W. Harrold, Jr.; from Alameda, Miss Mary L. Crafts, Everett E. Farwell, Jr.; from Danville, Mrs. C. E. Johnson.

# REPORT OF FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE FOR 1952

MONTH	REGULAR SUNDAY TRIPS	ATTENDANCE	SPECIES
January	Tiburon-San Quentin .....	33 .....	81
February	Tomales Bay .....	35 .....	105
March	Rodeo Lagoon .....	40 .....	62
"	Dumbarton-Calaveras Res. ....	45 .....	75
May	McCoy Ranch (Livermore) .....	45 .....	49
June	Pine Canyon (Mt. Diablo) .....	40 .....	50
July	Santa Cruz Mts. ....	50 .....	40
August	Bay Farm Island .....	75 .....	35
September	Alviso and Dumbarton Marshes .....	45 .....	39
October	Stinson Beach .....	19 .....	70
November	Los Banos Refuge .....	55 .....	59
December	Conn Lake .....	35 .....	74
Average .....		43 .....	62
	REGULAR SATURDAY TRIPS		
January	Golden Gate Park .....	17 .....	45
February	Berkeley Aquatic Park .....	35 .....	41
March	Tilden Park .....	35 .....	34
May	Pay Farm Island .....	40 .....	39
June	St. Mary's College .....	30 .....	56
July	Land's End .....	13 .....	35
August	Strawberry Canyon .....	26 .....	38
September	Berkeley Pier and Aquatic Park .....	26 .....	27
October	Bay Farm Island .....	12 .....	40
November	Golden Gate Park .....	30 .....	41
December	Cascade Lake (Orinda) .....	38 .....	57
Average .....		27 .....	41
	SPECIAL TRIPS		
January 12 - 13 —	Gridley and Willows Refuges .....	13 .....	74
April 26 - 27 —	Pinnacles Nat. Monument .....	17 .....	48
May 30 - June 1 —	Yosemite Nat. Park .....	50 .....	69
Average .....		27 .....	64
Grand Average .....		35 .....	53
TOTALS .....		899 .....	225

According to Mrs. Laura A. Stephens a total of 225 species was seen on the field trips during the year; the following were new: least bittern, cackling Canada goose, black swift, pileated woodpecker, red-naped sapsucker, Hammond and Wright flycatchers, dipper, and Nashville warbler, bringing the life-list total to 282 species and identifiable subspecies.

## MARCH MEETING

The 426th meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held in the West Auditorium of the Oakland Public Library, Oak and 14th Sts., on March 12 at 7:30 p.m. Following the business meeting, Dr. Oliver P. Pearson, Assistant Curator of Mammals at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, will speak on the wild life of the mountains of Peru. The talk will be illustrated by motion pictures. The public is invited. No-host dinner at Zerikote's at 6 p.m.

— DOROTHY DEAN SCOTT, *Program Chairman*.

### March — RODEO LAGOON — Trip

On Sunday, March 15, to Rodeo Lagoon in Marin County. This is usually a very interesting trip with many species of water birds present on either the ocean or the brackish lagoons behind the sandbar. The peregrine falcon is sometimes seen in the area. The meeting place will be the parking area just north of the Golden Gate Bridge. From San Francisco take any Marin Co. bus at 8:00 to 8:15 and watch for the meeting place approximately 250 yards north of the bridge. We will enter the Fort Baker Military Reservation in a body at 8:45. There will be a short walk of some three miles round trip, with various land birds, snipe, and wildflowers to add enjoyment. Leader, Harold Peterson, LO. 8-7534. Bring binoculars, telescope, lunch, and interested friends.

### March — JEWEL LAKE — Trip

On Saturday, March 28, to the Nature Area surrounding Jewel Lake in Tilden Regional Park. At this season it is sometimes possible to see rufous and even calliope hummingbirds in this vicinity. Meet at the Summit Reservoir at the top of Spruce Street in Berkeley at 9:00. Some people may care to take the trail which gradually approaches the lake from the west. The canyon leading up to Wildcat Peak is also interesting with a possibility of rufous-crowned sparrows. Leader, Carl Carson, OL. 2-2585. Bring lunch and interested friends.

— HARRY C. ADAMSON, *Chairman, Field Trips Committee*.

---

## Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

Established January 25, 1917

### For the Study and the Protection of Birds

#### Branch of National Audubon Society

California Office — 693 Sutter Street, San Francisco 2 — PR. 5-4042

President.....	Dr. Albert Boes.....	854 Longridge Road, Oakland 10, GL. 1-6267
Cor. Sec. ....	Miss Alice B. Leet.....	1050 Spruce St., Berkeley 7, LA. 4-2488
Treasurer.....	Harold G. Peterson.....	3548 - 65th Ave., Oakland 5, LO. 8-7534
Editor.....	A. Laurence Curl.....	7360 Rockway Ave., El Cerrito 8, LA. 6-7004

#### Membership

Chairman, L. R. Leinbach.....201 Purdue Ave., Berkeley 8, LA. 6-7649

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p. m.

Joint Membership, Local & National \$5.00 per Year, includes Audubon Magazine

Local Membership only, \$1.50 per year

---